7: International Bank N, S-4 (1951) 1952 MH1 Iraq MH1

reliable figures on its true incidence. One real problem is that the public has come to regard tuberculosis as a shameful disease so that few people report to hospitals in the early stage of the illness. The government has applied to the World Health Organization for assistance in dealing with tuberculosis. It is understood that WHO will send a team consisting of a consultant, an epidemiologist, a bacteriologist and two nurses to begin a BCG campaign; and that, by arrangement with UNICEF, they will be assisted by two medical officers, two nurses, and one administrator. The government will build a suitable "chest center" in Baghdad where the WHO team will work and where local staff can be trained.

Eye Diseases

Eye diseases are common in Iraq, as in the rest of the Middle East. It has been estimated that there are 40,000 totally blind persons, most of whom cannot work and must be cared for, thereby becoming a burden to the community. About one in five of the total population have been treated annually for conjunctivitis or trachoma in the past six years. To a large extent these also are social diseases, although some doctors in Iraq think certain eye diseases may have a nutritional basis in the consumption of large quantities of polished rice.

II. The Curative Services

Hospitals and Dispensaries

In general, the curative services have received more attention than preventive medicine. Iraq's 89 hospitals are unevenly distributed, however, since one third of them are in the Baghdad area and the remaining 59 are divided among the other 13 provinces. It is true, of course, that there is higher concentration of people in Baghdad.

Of the 89 hospitals, 58 are general and six are for infectious diseases, three for eye diseases, two for venereal diseases and one for lepers. There are also two hospitals for children, one for